

DETAILS FOR UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTING

SPECIES: Bay-Breasted Warbler (Immature)

DATE: 10 August, 1991 (7:05 PM)

OBSERVER: Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll, NE, Iowa City, Iowa, 52240

BACKGROUND: I was sitting on my patio at home north of Iowa City, when a small bird landed on the crossbar of my feeder 20 feet away. My first thought was another female goldfinch coming to the feeder. It was immediately chased away from the feeder by a male goldfinch, but returned, only to be chased away several more times. It then flitted around a small birch tree nearby, and I watched it for 2-3 minutes with Swift Audubon 8.5 X 44 binoculars. I usually see immature Bay-Breasted Warbler in the fall, but this seemed like a very early date.

DESCRIPTION: The bird was an immature of the trio Blackpoll, Bay-Breasted, and Pine. I identified it as a Bay-Breasted from the following features. It had a greenish-brown back and top of head that both had subtle dark streaking. (Pine is not streaked) The belly was quite white and unstreaked, and there was no streaking on upper breast. (Blackpoll has streaked breast, and Pine has some yellow to brown on the breast). Legs were dark (Blackpoll has light colored legs)